

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Minutes of the Meeting of May 16, 2002

Members Present: Keith Tornheim (presiding), Janice Bourque, Bill Koney, Susan Fast, Bob Stauro, David Oliphant, Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic

Others: Amy Mazur, John Rice

COMMUNICATIONS:

On behalf of NHNAC, Keith sent a letter to Board of Aldernan opposing upcoming vote on licensing procedures (discussed further under Agenda item "Repeal of curent requirement..")

Bill Koney sent a letter and TA-1 Application to to Massachusetts Department of Revenue requesting tax exemption; also received a letter City of Newton stating that the Council is a part of the City.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Approval of Minutes: April 18 minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance is \$2,407.24

VISITORS' PLATFORM

- Amy Mazur asked that Council consider for approval budget request of \$200 for the 2002 Halloween party. (Amount would not include entertainment, which was also not provided at the 2001 party, and which was considered an inessential expense since the party went well without it.) Council approved the budget.
- Amy also reported that she will no longer run the party after 2002, and has begun recruitment for a new volunteer. Council noted that her service over the years has been very much appreciated.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Village Day

- Discussed failure of banner (letters coming off, and blowing off of its ropes during a storm). Patty Kellogg and John Rice made several attempts to rehang the banner, and eventually removed it to return to the sign company. It was also noted in their visit to the sign company that the banner material was less weight than had been specified. Sign company is re-doing the lettering and adding wind gussets.
- Susan to give Bill Koney the check from Citizen's Bank toward the banner (\$100) and follow-up with Janet Zerlin Fagan to clarify where the BankNorth \$300 donation is being applied.
- T-shirts have been ordered, but cost is not yet clear; likely to be approximately \$500, most of which will be recouped through sales.
- Decision was made that next year's planning should include formal budget requests for portions of the Village Day, such as Road Race, that require outlays of money by Council.

- Bob Smith has been notified that he will receive an appreciation award. Background information about his contributions to community will be included in Village Day flyer. Keith to present the award.

Brigham House

- Burr school yard sale on June 1 will also include donations from Home Goods.
- Brigham House is now attracting 80 to 100 youths per week. Summer hours will be Wednesday through Saturday, 6 to 11 p.m.
- Received 501(c)3 status, which should aid in fund-raising, which is much needed to maintain expanding hours and programs. Pool table donation is very popular.

Nominating Committee

- No new developments.

Alderman Special Permit Public Hearing

- Docket item 317-01 was voted out of committee and subsequently passed by full Board of Alderman with 16 votes. Typographical errors in the passed amendment may require revision and/or revote.

Newsletter

- Sent out for May/June. Next issue is September.

Web Site

- Moved to be under Community Groups portion of the City's site.

Parking

- Aldermen are exploring adding more metered spots on Lincoln Street.

Development

- Highland Station – Closed. No information on new business.
- Baker's Best – Michael Baker is moving forward with mitigation strategies.
- Robert Neal hairdresser will be leaving.
- Noise – David Oliphant explained that a citizen's group, which he is part of, has formed to address their concerns about general level of noise from all businesses in the Highlands.
- Walnut Street curve – discussed dangerous curve near St. Paul's church, which has been site of several accidents. Council to determine City design plans for planned reconstruction (straightening, warning signs, etc.) prior to requesting specific actions by City.